with the provisions of theTobacco Board Act, the present Baord consists of 26 members including Members of Parliament and representatives of Central and State Governments, growers, exporters, dealers, manufacturers and experts. Of the representatives from farmers/traders category, seven are from Andhra Pradesh and two are from Karnataka. At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to change the composition of theTobacco Board.

Modifications in Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty

493. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal Government has requested modifictions in the Indo-NepalTradeTreaty signed in the month of March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons forwarded for changes in the treaty; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The request of Government of Nepal for increasing the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) of Copper and Copper products has been agreed to.The quota has been increased from 7500 tonnes to 10,000 tonnes.

Decline in export of gold jewellery

494. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a)whether there has been sharp decline in the volume of export of India gold Jewellery during the past months;

(b)if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c) the figures of exports of gold jewellery from the export processing zones and export oriented units of the country, month-wise; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Provisional data of exports of gold jewellery (plain and studded) from India from Special Economic Zones (SEZ), Export Processing Zones (EPZ), Export Oriented Units (EOU) and Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) for the period from April, 2002 to January, 2003 is as below :-

	April, 2002 to January, 2003 Value: US$ in Million				
	SEZ	EPZ	EOU	DTA	TOTAL
April	49.48	0.21	3.14	44.19	97.02
May	51.27	0.20	5.61	59.77	116.85
June	46.88	0.01	2.97	48.79	98.65
July	48.32	0.22	3.79	68.52	120.85
August	59.08	0.09	4.69	66.22	130.08
September	66.97	0.42	4.58	61.59	133.56
October	92.15	0.20	5.11	85.41	182.87
November	76.31	0.24	5.5	62.93	144.98
December	57.22	NA	5.12	59.05	121.39
January	50.69	NA	5.73	35.68	91.80
TOTAL:	598.37	1.59	45.94	592.15	1238.05

Source: Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council

(d) Does not arise. Never-the-less, the Government and the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) have taken several steps to improve the exports of gem and jewellery and enhance competitiveness in the world markets. Some of the these are given below :—

Ministry of Commerce & Industry have prepared a MediumTerm Export Startegy for various sectors including Gem & Jewellery sector;

The GJEPC and the Govt, constantly explore the possibility of direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries;

Government have provided funds to set up the SardarVallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture at Surat to give a fillip to jewellery design and manufacture;

The GJEPC promotes the image of Indian diamonds and jewellery abroad through advertisements, publicity and participation in international fairs, organising buyer-seller meets and direct approach to market retailers;

The GJEPC identifies new markets by organising market study through consultants. It also deputes Indian designers to various international trade fairs and exhibitions to study the latest trend in designs; and

The GJEPC promotes export of Hallmark jewellery from India so that customers abroad can be assured of quality and purity of Indian made jewellery.

In addition, the following policy initiatives have been taken for the sector in the new Exim Policy effective from 1.4.2002:-

Customs duty on import of rough diamonds has been reduced to zero and licensing regime for rough diamond abolised.

Value addition norms for export of plain jewellery have been reduced from 10% to 7%. Export of all mechanized unstudded jewellery is now permissible at a value addition of 3% which was earlier restricted only to gold/platinum/silver unstudded Chains and bangles manufactured by fully mechanized process.

Personal carriage of jewellery is permissible through. Hyderabad and Jaipur airports as well, in addition to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkatta, Chennai and Bangalore.